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Guy M. Hicks
General Counsel

October 17, 1997

VIA HAND DELIVERY

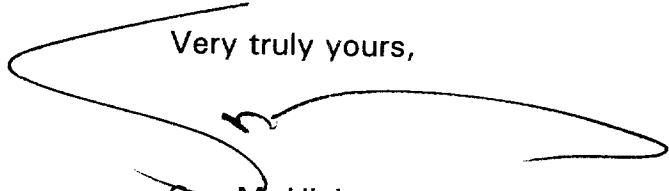
David Waddell, Executive Secretary
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37238

Re: *Universal Service Generic Contested Case*
Docket No. 97-00888

Dear Mr. Waddell:

Enclosed are the original and thirteen copies of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s Request for Designation as Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the above-referenced matter. A copy has been provided to counsel of record.

Very truly yours,



Guy M. Hicks

GMH:ch

Enclosure

cc: Bennett Ross
Charles Howorth

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Nashville, Tennessee

In Re: *Universal Service Generic Contested Case*

Docket No. 97-00888

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATION, INC.'S
REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION AS
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER

Pursuant to Section 214 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("1996 Act"), BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") hereby requests that the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") designate and certify that BellSouth is an eligible telecommunications carrier in its designated service area for federal universal service support purposes. In order to maintain uninterrupted federal universal service support, BellSouth requests that this designation be granted prior to January 1, 1998.

Under 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2), the TRA "shall upon its own motion or upon request designate a common carrier that meets the requirements of § 214(e)(1) as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the State Commission." Pursuant to Section 214(e)(1), a common carrier that has been designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier "shall be eligible to receive universal support in accordance with Section 254."

BellSouth meets all the requirements of an eligible telecommunications carrier. Specifically, BellSouth offers the services that are supported by federal universal support mechanisms under Section 254(c) using its own facilities and

advertises the availability of such services and the charges therefor using media of general distribution. See 42 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1). Action by the TRA before the January 1, 1998 commencement date for federal funding is essential for continued universal service in BellSouth's designated service area. Otherwise, universal service could be jeopardized.

For the foregoing reasons, BellSouth respectfully requests that the TRA designate and certify BellSouth as an eligible telecommunications carrier in its designated service area. BellSouth further requests that such designation be made by the TRA prior to January 1, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 17, 1997, a copy of the foregoing document was served on the parties of record, via U. S. Mail, postage pre-paid, addressed as follows:

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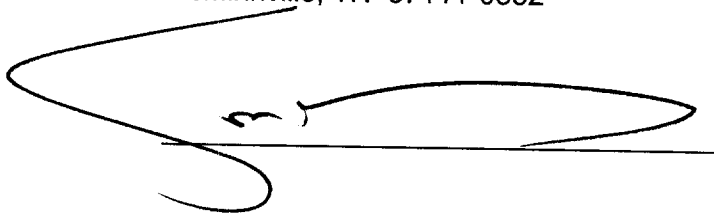
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. W. Dempster', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop on the left and a smaller loop on the right.